

Serial No.: 10/629,595

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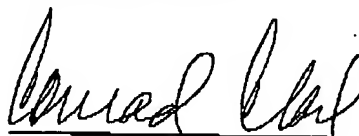
REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested. The examiner's reliance on the dictionary definition of "rigid" is not appropriate given the explicit teaching in the specification of "rigid" in connection with thermoplastic materials, specifically polypropylene. See in this regard, the specification at page 4.

Thus, it is incorrect to consider, for example, the "resilient" material of Weimar to be rigid. It appears that the Office may consider the resilient material of Weimar to be nevertheless rigid because of the understanding that the wire holds it "fixed or set." It is submitted that this is incorrect because the material itself is not rigid. As noted earlier the teachings of Gopalan are so ambiguous that only the present disclosure can guide the Office to the conclusions drawn in the Action. The reference to Guillon suffers from the same deficiency as noted with regard to Weimar.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and an early indication thereof is respectfully requested. All necessary extensions of time are hereby requested. Please charge any deficiency and credit any excess to deposit account 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,
CLARK & BRODY



Conrad J. Clark
Reg. No. 30,340

Suite 250
1090 Vermont Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
202-835-1111
202-835-1755(fax)
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